

## LIMOUSINE

## House Clerk's Private Car Hidden In Budget

By EDWIN A. LAHEY  
Observer Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON—Ralph R. Roberts, the clerk of the House, concedes that he uses his government limousine to go to the race track.

The really interesting question in the slight flurry caused by this news follows:

How does a payroller in a \$21,500 patronage job, with no ceremonial function, rate a private Cadillac paid for by taxpayers?

The answer is most elusive.

The budget breakdown for the expenses of the House of Representatives for fiscal year 1964 makes no mention of a limousine for the House clerk.

This puts Roberts in the same class as the Central Intelligence Agency, whose federal funds are hidden in the budget book for security reasons.

The budget presentation prepared for the House this year carries an item of \$10,600 for the speaker's automobile, \$10,500 for the majority leader's automobile, and \$10,500 for the minority leader's automobile.

All these characters are elected officials of Congress, who go to the White House on business and to many ceremonial functions in their respective political roles. The private limousines assigned to these political leaders usually are accepted as matter of fact.

The only money allocated to the clerk of the House in the budget preparation is the lump sum of \$1,260,970. It is a three-line item in the budget, which makes no mention of the private limousine for the clerk.

Roberts, the well-cared-for payroller, was unavailable for an explanation, and a member of his staff merely replied:

"We can't help you on this matter."